

# BLACK CATS

Do black cats really bring good or bad luck? Let's explore what various countries believe.

Superstitions abound in America, such as a black cat crossing your path means bad luck. Due to satanic rituals, black cats are a target for violence and abuse, especially during Halloween. At animal shelters black cats are usually adopted last, sold for less money and, if not adopted, may be euthanized. Research reveals black cats stay 15 percent longer (nine days longer) than other cats. With all of these available black cats, it increases your chances of getting a black cat of your preferred personality at your local shelter.

Did you know that Italy recently held its first Black Cat Day in cities across the nation? Animal rights groups want to change superstitious beliefs that black cats are evil or bad luck by halting the killing of an estimated 60,000 black cats a year. This event included artwork honoring black cats plus awards for those who have protected them.

Some countries believe black cats bring good luck. In Ancient Egypt the deity Bast was the protector of cats, women and children. People thought having a black cat in their home would bring them favor with Bast. King Charles 1 of England had his black cat guarded 24 hours a day to ensure good luck. Australians believe a bride will have a happy marriage if a black cat sneezes nearby on her wedding day. Black cats symbolize good luck in Scotland, Ireland, China and Japan.

No scientific study has ever found that black cats bring bad luck instead of good luck. My personal experience with black cats reveals they are affectionate companions of family and friends, whose luck is no better or worse than other people I know.

What do you think?